

MEDIA RELEASE

18 February 2021

Over \$300K boosted into creative relief and recovery projects in WA

Regional Arts WA has so far invested \$303,874 into the creative ecosystem in Western Australia (WA) through the Recovery Boost – a one-off targeted investment provided by the Australian Government through Regional Arts Australia.

The Recovery Boost is a nation-wide funding initiative that was announced last year to support creative industries across regional, rural, and remote Australia, recognising arts and culture activities are vital in the recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.

The injection of 26 creative Relief and Recovery projects into the creative ecosystem across regional WA; from the Kimberley to the Great Southern, will increase community accessibility of arts and culture activities, and boost job opportunities and professional development for artists working in the community space whilst creating connection and conversation in the regions.

Regional Arts WA CEO Paul MacPhail says the Australian Government's commitment to the Regional Arts Fund Boost has meant regional communities were able to respond more quickly to community needs and recover from COVID-19 disruptions.

"The Recovery Boost through the Regional Arts Fund was delivered quickly into the regions last year as a response to COVID-19 and, as a result, artists and creative communities were able to bounce back from the downturn much faster while boosting the Australian economy as well.

It is exciting to see artists, creative organisations, and arts workers embracing new ways of working and adopting new technologies to overcome the impacts of COVID-19 and continue to connect their communities through arts and culture opportunities.

A current opportunity supported through the Recovery Boost is the Annual Event funding program, which will support regional organisations delivering an event that encourages community participation and audience engagement in regional and remote communities over the next 3 years. It's another way the Australian Government is supporting the regions during this uncertain time."

The RAF Annual Event program is open now and closes 11 March 2021. For more information or to apply online, please head to www.regionalartswa.org.au/funding

The Regional Arts Fund is one way the Australian Government supports regional artists and arts organisations to develop their artistic practice and produce works and experiences to benefit their local communities. The Regional Arts Fund is administered on behalf of the Australian Government by Regional Arts Australia and organisations in each state and territory which includes Regional Arts WA.

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SUPPORT MATERIAL

Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund's Relief Grant Recipients

Artzability Inc | \$3,960 | South West

Artzability, based in Margaret River, was supported to run the Puppetry Project, a creative program for adults living with disabilities in the South West region. Employing three local artists to work alongside Coordinator Sky River, the project involved facilitating workshops in script and character development, soundtrack making, puppet making and puppet costume design, performance, and digital media.

Bunbury Bel Canto Singers Inc. | \$4,000 | South West

The Bunbury Bel Canto Singers were supported in purchasing live streaming equipment to enable their choir to safely continue with remote rehearsals during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns.

Enya Aurora Lippert | \$1,500 | Kimberley

Young, emerging Broome performer, Enya Lippert, took advantage of an opportunity to travel to Perth to attend an Audition Masterclass at WAAPA. With her goal to study acting after graduating from high school, this opportunity greatly assisted her preparations for the WAAPA auditions in November.

Fiona Sinclair | \$2,576 | South West

Fiona Sinclair, an artist and arts worker based in Northcliffe, has been supported in purchasing equipment to facilitate the initial scoping and trial phase of a new podcast series to help inter-connect WA's regional arts sector as an antidote to the fragmentary experience of the COVID-19 crisis.

Georgia Deguara | \$3,922 | Kimberley

Producer and Director of emerging company YUCK Circus, Georgia Deguara, has been supported to replace her outdated IT hardware. Due to COVID-19 global restrictions Georgia has had to transition from a performing role to solely admin and an updated laptop with more memory and accessible features will allow her to complete work and attend remote meetings more efficiently, while assisting to further her role as Producer and Director.

Jose Will Caceres | \$4,000 | Kimberley

Broome based musician and performer, Jose Will Caceres, currently plays for Indigenous band Footprint, directed by Mark Bakar (otherwise known as Mary G). Will has received support to purchase a professional digital piano and PA system so that he is able to perform with the band at local events as well as teach and perform at remote communities around Broome.

Tjupan Ngalia Tribal Land Council (Aboriginal Corporation) | \$3,994 | Goldfields-Esperance

Tjupan Ngalia Tribal Land Council (Aboriginal Corporation), based in Leonora, took advantage of an opportunity to send two artists to attend Fremantle Arts Centre courses for six weeks in Linocut Printmaking and Book Illustration & Design. The skills development for the artists involved will be used in the creation of artworks for illustration of Ngalia Language Priority Support Project stories, a project involving the documentation of critically endangered languages.

Tiffany Clitheroe | \$3,447 | Gascoyne

Established Exmouth artist, Tiffany Clitheroe was supported to paint a mural on a wall in the centre of town during the busiest time of year. Making the town centre a visual attraction will help provide a more stable way to enhance tourism all year round in Exmouth beyond eco-tours and nature-based attractions.

Sadie James | \$3,887 | Gascoyne

An artist and published author based in Coral Bay, Sadie James has been supported to employ a regional designer to build a website and online shop, broadening her customer base (currently limited to visitors to the Ningaloo region). A series of marketing materials will be produced as part of a strategy to promote her artwork, mural projects, films and published children's books.

Southern Forest Arts | \$4,000 | Pilbara

Southern Forest Arts in Northcliffe have been supported to employ a locally based web designer to mentor a Southern Forest Arts arts worker and to train board members in the design, implementation and ongoing maintenance of a new Southern Forest Arts website. The site will feature new digital publications such as online trail guides, podcast tours, videos and e-commerce capability to support local artists, helping to drive increased visitors to cultural attractions and enable SFA to connect meaningfully, safely and sustainably with residents and visitors.

The Junction Co. | \$3,000 | Pilbara

Based in Port Hedland, The Junction Co. have been supported in the development and implementation of a membership portal on their website along with a series of visual identity wares for members to provide an avenue of visual connection with other members. After consultation with the community, two memberships were designed in order to create more opportunities for connection and communication between the organisation and the arts community.

Vahri McKenzie | \$2,200 | South West

Bunbury artist, Vahri McKenzie, was supported to work with a local marketing and design company to develop visual communication and networking strategies for her professional arts practice. With COVID-19 revealing the weakness of her current marketing strategies, she focused on developing her brand and logo, migrating her website a new host, and training in SEO assessment to better manage her digital profile.

Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund's Recovery Grant Recipients

Arts Margaret River | \$30,000 | Margaret River – South West

Margaret River Reader and Writers Festival 2021

The Margaret River Readers and Writers Festival will be delivered in May 2021 with both physical and virtual events featuring more than 50 of Australia's best writers, speakers, thinkers, journalists and novelists. In response to COVID-19 the festival will adapt the program to engage a wider international audience and connect with the local community, authors, artists and audiences through live streamed events, virtual Q&A's, virtual workshops and networking sessions.

Christopher Young | \$29,089 | Margaret River – South West

Careful

Photographer Christopher Young will collaborate with local actors and musicians to develop highly engaging virtual reality experiences for aged care residents in the South West, assisting them to reconnect with their communities after the isolation created by COVID-19. Christopher will consult with aged care facilities, mental health professionals and other stakeholders to develop intimate and innovative outcomes for this vulnerable demographic. The content will also be released online for the broader community to access.

Nannup Music Club | \$25,000 | Nannup – South West
Nannup Music Festival

The Nannup Music Club will deliver the iconic Nannup Music Festival in 2021, putting in place operating plans to assist in recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. The Festival will present an eclectic mix of acts over the March long weekend, set to the stunning bush backdrop of Australia's South West and the small town atmosphere of Nannup. It will highlight the best in new, emerging, and Indigenous original music, create exposure opportunities for artists and invite everyone to share, immerse and discover in a weekend of music.

Southern Forest Arts | \$30,000 | Northcliffe – South West
Mycelium

Mycelium is the second initiative of The Creative Grid. Co-designed to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by COVID-19, *Mycelium* will nurture sector-wide resilience, sustainability and vibrancy through networks of exchange and support between regional arts groups and independent practitioners within the diverse communities and contexts in which they operate.

The Junction Co | \$30,000 | Port Hedland – Pilbara
Pilbara Public Artists Development Program

The Pilbara Public Artists Development Program will be a capacity-building program for Pilbara artists to further develop their practice into the public art space through a series of presentations, workshops, and skills development sessions. Developed by The Junction Co in response to industry gaps identified during COVID-19 restrictions, the program will provide an opportunity for Local Government Areas and agencies to engage local artists, and will assist in creating a sustainable, economically stimulated, regional public art industry in the Pilbara.

Page Break

Bunbury Fringe | \$30,000 | Bunbury – South West
Bunbury Fringe 2021

Bunbury Fringe Inc will deliver a curated, nine-day festival in the heart of Bunbury's CBD to provide a platform for artists to develop works, and for regional audiences to experience the arts. In the recovery from COVID-19 the 2021 festival will present exclusively West Australian artists. Of the 30 performances, five works are projects specifically developed, and/or being launched at the Festival. In both the medium and long term, Bunbury Fringe will be instrumental in developing works that can be presented beyond this festival, in regional and national spaces.

Stage Left Theatre Troupe | \$7,419 | Boulder – Goldfields-Esperance
Professional Theatre Arts Workshops in Kalgoorlie

Stage Left Theatre Troupe will partner with Black Swan Theatre to deliver a series of professional quality theatre arts workshops in Kalgoorlie in 2021. The workshops will be open to students, teachers, and local artists. The short-term goal is to elevate local skill levels and enhance performances, whilst the long-term goal is to create a more sustainable theatre community to assist in retaining a skilled workforce in the region.

North Midlands Project Inc | \$29,259 | Carnamah – Mid West
North Midlands Creative Community Days

The North Midlands Project will deliver a series of 24 Community Days to reconnect people with creativity and each other across Carnamah, Coorow, Mingenew, Morawa, Perenjori and Three Springs throughout 2021. This will encompass professionally delivered arts workshops, live music

and performances, giant games, health and support services, and a showcase of local and creative organisations in the community.

Mara Arts Aboriginal Corporation | \$29,000 | Geraldton – Mid West

Ngatha Wangga: The Yamaji Language, Dance and Song Project

Mara Arts Aboriginal Corporation will develop resources for engagement of the wider Yamaji communities through the delivery of collaborative arts and cultural activities. COVID-19 lockdown highlighted the critical need for the preservation and development of Yamaji languages. *Ngatha Wangga* will assist with the revival and maintenance of Yamaji languages, bringing together Yamaji and Italian artists in a unique cross-cultural collaboration, to strengthen these respective cultural identities through two-way cultural exchange and engagement.

York Arts & Events | \$7,620 | York – Wheatbelt

Community Arts Program

York Arts & Events will diversify their programming to deliver a pilot program of arts experiences for young people and workshops for adults, stimulating the community's creativity as it recovers. The program aims to achieve long-term sustainability and ascertain the feasibility of a permanent community arts and culture centre in consultation with the community.

About Regional Arts WA

Established in 1994, Regional Arts WA (formerly Country Arts WA) is the State's only multi-arts organisation with a purely regional focus. As an independent, membership-based, not-for-profit organisation our purpose is to celebrate and strengthen a powerful regional arts sector to contribute to connected and creative regional communities. More at: www.regionalartswa.org.au

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund is provided through Regional Arts Australia.



Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund